

Welcome to *The Church of the Open Door*.
Our door is open to you at whatever point you are in your journey of faith.

TODAY AT FIRST CONGREGATIONAL UCC, APPLETON

9:30 AM Childcare and Children's Ministry – *CYF Wing*
10:30 AM Children's Choir – *Art Kitchen & Choir Room*
10:45 AM New Member Class – *Upper Lounge*
4:30 PM LU Scholar Rehearsal – *Sanctuary & Choir Room*

Donating to First Congregational UCC

We have many convenient ways to donate. Giving cards and pledge cards are in the pews and may be put in the offering plates. Checks can be mailed to the church. You can also visit our webpage and click "Give" or text FCUCC GIVE to 73256.

References to God

References to God in our worship may at times be gender specific. You are invited to substitute terms that reflect your understanding of the inclusiveness of God.

Land Acknowledgement

Our church is located on the ancestral homelands of the Menominee Nation. We affirm this indigenous community who stewarded this land throughout the generations and pay respect to their elders past and present.

Online Streaming and Podcasting

Watch our services live on [Facebook: FCUCCAppleton](#) OR [Youtube: First Congregational UCC Appleton](#).

Communion

All are welcome to receive gluten-free communion the first Sunday of each month.

Baptism

Baptisms are held on the third Sunday of each month. To schedule a baptism, contact the church office six weeks before your desired baptism date.

Flowers

Today's flowers were arranged by Cindi Ritcey Fox.

Hearing Loop

Need help hearing our service? Ask an usher. They can help get you in the loop!



THE ORDER OF WORSHIP

SECOND SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

January 15, 2023

9:30 AM

Rev. Dr. Susan Cartmell, Interim Senior Pastor
Rev. Nicholas J. Hatch, Pastor for Youth and Family Ministries
Pastor Mary Jo Laabs, Interim Associate Minister for Congregational Life

PRELUDE

O Morning Star, How Fair and Bright!

Tune by Philipp Nicolai
Setting by Max Drischner

Dr. Nathan Birkholz, *organ*

RINGING OF CHURCH BELL

*WELCOME

*CALL TO WORSHIP

One: Let us come to sing, to pray and to plot how to bring God's kingdom, here, on earth.

All: **We gather to worship God.**

One: Let us come to the Bible with open minds and hearts eager to learn.

All: **We gather to hear a story for us, today.**

One: Let us come as we are - with our faith and our doubts, our convictions and our questions.

All: **We gather to see God's way for us, and all the earth.**

*OPENING HYMN #517

O God of Every Nation

LLANGLOFFAN

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

SCRIPTURE READING

II Samuel 12:1-15 (OT, p. 354)

MEDITATION

The Basis of Justice: #1 in Sermon Series on Justice

Rev. Dr. Susan Cartmell

HYMN #429

Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us

BRADBURY

* Please rise, in body or in spirit.

OFFERING

CALL TO THE OFFERING

MUSICAL REFLECTION

On the Common Ground

Sanctuary Choir

Daniel Boyd and Tanvi Thatai, *soloists*

Alice Parker

(b. 1925)

Alice Parker's notes on this piece: *In many New England villages there is a central green space known as The Common. Originally providing a safe overnight pasture for the villagers' cattle, the land belonged to all. This example was clear in my mind as I sought for a cure for the deep divides in our country. Surely, we, like pioneers, can find common ground on which we can respectfully share our concerns and debate our differences. Our common heritage demands it.*

(To donate virtually during this time, please visit our webpage and click "Give" to make your weekly offering, or text FCUCC GIVE to 73256).

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

CALL TO PRAYER

Hear My Prayer

Sanctuary Choir

Daniel Boyd, *LU Scholar conductor*

Moses Hogan

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

GATHERING OF JOYS AND CONCERNS

(You are welcome to submit your prayer requests throughout the week to the church office or email them to a pastor for confidentiality.)

THE LORD'S PRAYER (in unison)

**Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name.**

Thy kingdom come.

Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread.

And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors.

**And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.**

**For thine is the kingdom, and the power,
and the glory, forever. Amen.**

***CLOSING HYMN #481**

Lift Every Voice and Sing

LIFT EVERY VOICE

***BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE

O God of Every Nation – A Welsh Melody (Llangloffen) Setting by Aaron David Miller

Permission to stream the music in this service obtained from ONE LICENSE, # A-714899. All rights reserved.

TODAY’S MUSICIANS

Dr. Nathan Birkholz, *Organist*

Sanctuary Choir

Daniel Boyd, *LU Scholar conductor & baritone soloist*

Tanvi Thatai, *soprano soloist*

John M. Albrecht, *Director for Music Ministries*

Children’s Ministry Locations

Infants/Toddlers		Preschoolers	
Childcare Room, Upstairs		Little Angels Room, Downstairs	
K/1 st Graders	2 nd /3 rd Graders		4 th /5 th Graders
Art Kitchen, Upstairs	Science Room, Downstairs		Theater, Upstairs

Upcoming Worship Schedule

January 22, 2023

Third Sunday after Epiphany

Rev. Dr. Susan Cartmell

Scriptures: I Kings 21

Music: Dr. Nathan Birkholz, *organ*; Sanctuary Choir; Instrumentalist

Pastor's Message: Progress

Congratulations. We had our first Listening Session on Sunday January 8 and 68 of you participated in 4 break-out sessions. You shared memories, fond stories about the Church and you were clear and eloquent in talking about what this Church means to you. We are off to a good start.

We are very grateful to our group facilitators who did a fine job of organizing and leading the Listening Sessions. This whole exercise relied on their expert leadership.

Kudos to: Rick Detienne & Chip Gabbey in the Chapel with me.
 Bill Ritcey & Pastor Mary Jo Labbs in the Upper Lounge.
 Eileen & John Hoft-March in the Senior High Youth Lounge.
 Nancy Brown-Koeller & Art Hage in the Science Room.

Kudos to you! You listened you each other. These break-out sessions were organized by random selection. Everyone was assigned to a room by colored coded dots that appeared on the bulletins. We did this intentionally so you could mix, mingle, and hear new ideas from folks outside your immediate circle of friends or family. People shared across the traditional silos that keep us separate. Folks who are brand new to the Church as well as long-time members talked easily about what this Church means to them.

What will we do with this information? Scribes from each group recorded this information. Volunteers have written up the notes and we are compiling all that we have learned. A full report will be available for Church Council, at the February meeting. Then, we hope to send it along to our Senior Pastor Search Committee so they can factor it into their work.

What about the online audience? We are planning to host a Zoom meeting for our online audience, and we will have similar facilitated break-out sessions. Everyone who attends online has the option to join one of the online groups.

How do we hear from younger families who did not stay or could not attend on Sunday mornings? Pastor Nick has taken the curriculum for all the Listening Sessions and he is making his own lesson plans for group discussions with Confirmation Class and Youth Groups. Sarah Wilterdink, our Christian Educator and CYF Director of Ministries, will be designing ways for these questions to be used in the curriculum for younger children as appropriate. We will also be sending some worksheets home so families can discuss these questions together and give us their feedback.

Listening Session 2 is scheduled for January 22. Our topic will be "Trip Down Memory Lane." Former Senior Pastor, Rev. John McFadden, Senior Pastor has written a wonderful introduction to that session.

We hope you will be part of this journey of faith.

Blessings, *Pastor Susan*

JOYS AND CONCERNS OF OUR FAITH COMMUNITY

Members of our church family benefit from our prayers, support, and words of encouragement as they celebrate special times or struggle with difficulties in their lives. Please keep these people in your prayers and greet them with a loving word when you see them.

If you are in the hospital, please let the church know, as we are not always notified. In cases of a pastoral emergency, please call (920) 810-2600.

Jill Anthony
Jill Anthony's sister
Jill Anthony's nephew, Darryl
Scott Baehman
Valerie Bales
Sherry Bassett
Paul Bauman
Katie Behl
Barbara Ann Behl, Katie's sister
Aidan Bero
Nicholas Breitzman
Family of Clair Brown upon his death
Don Brittnacher
Judy Burdick, Megan Burdick-Grade's mother
Dick Casperson
Steve Chapin
Lynn Cook
Jessica, friend of Dick and Kathy DeVries
Jim Edwards
Rachel Edwards
Heidi Mendonca Erstad
Erstad family friend, Silas and his family
Friend of Pat Severin
David Galow
Steve Gehrt, son of Esther
Ken Geiger
Dylan Glick
Norm Goodacre and family
Micki Guyette and her family
Margaret Hankwitz
Judy Hanson
Ted Healey, father of Sue Toussaint

Ken Hocking
Carol Huddleston and family
Larri Jacquart, daughter of Helen Wilson
Jean Jepson
Ray Johnson
Nancy Kandler
Rick Kramer, Richard Miller's son-in law
Gerald Otto, brother of Stephen Otto
Family of Sharon Radke upon her death
Steve Reinkober, brother of Chris Brittnacher
Aria Arthur Schmidt, grandson of Julie Schaller-Schmidt and John Schmidt
Tom Salm
Jan Scheibe
Larry Schiedermayer
Pat Severin
Mike Seymour's mom, Debbie
Paul Siket
Mark Spindler
Cole Stoffel
Debra Stoner
Gloria Tate
Jack Thiel
Peter Thiel
James Totzke
Jean Van Wagenin
Mya Wardle, Brian and Lecia Wardle's daughter
Diane White
Family of Dave Williamsen, upon his death

Listening Sessions

January 22 at 10:45 AM:

"Trip Down Memory Lane"

Childcare: *The Bee Movie*

February 5 at 10:45 AM:

"Changes and Disappointments:
What challenges shaped us and
informed our journey?"

Childcare Movie: *Cars*

February 19 at 10:45 AM:

"What Are You Hoping For? What Do
We Seek in a New Senior Leader?"

Childcare Movie: *Shrek*

We had a wonderful time learning "What You Love about First Congregational Church" last Sunday, with 68 members in attendance! Please join us for the continuation of our Interim Curriculum's listening sessions. Every session will begin with an introduction in the Sanctuary, followed by conversations in groups of 20 in break-out spaces around the building. These sessions will be led by an experienced leader, and we will have a recorder in each room. You will be able to talk together, to weigh in on various questions each time, to listen to others, and to write your responses if you feel more comfortable expressing yourself that way.

If these Sunday times are not good for you, please e-mail me at

scartmell@firstcongoappleton.org.

Youth and Families

Faith, fun and service

Childcare for Listening Sessions

Childcare will be available during each listening session! Children have the choice of a movie and popcorn in the theater or playtime in the Childcare Room. Singers who go to Children's Choir can finish the movie with us 11:30-12:00! All movies will be done at noon.

Worship and Music

*A diverse community practicing faith,
finding spiritual connection and experiencing
the Holy through artful sound*

Come Serve in Music Ministry!

Please join us by contacting John Albrecht, *Director for Music Ministries*,
jalbrecht@firstcongoappleton.org
920-851-8097

Sundays Rehearsals

Children's Choir & LU Music Scholars

Wednesday Rehearsals

Youth Handbells & Sanctuary Choir

Taize Services Continued!

We are continuing to gather for Taize Services 6:00 – 6:30 PM in the Chapel. This Thursday: *Soaking Up God's Word*

Mission and Service

*Building relationships, serving others,
pursuing justice*

Mental Health Taskforce

Monday, January 16 from 6:00-7:30 PM

Do you or someone you love experience mental illness? Would you like to learn more about welcoming those with mental illness into our church community? Would you like to share your knowledge about mental health and illness? *Come join us tomorrow!*

Contact Mary Sullivan with questions.
(msullivan623@yahoo.com)

2023 Back Bay Mission Trip

The 2023 Back Bay Mission Trip is scheduled for March 26 through April 1. Please register with the church or by sending me an email at kjahnke@new.rr.com or call me at 920-427-5996. I will be available after worship service on both the 11th and 18th to answer questions people might have about the trip. I would like to have the number of people who will be going on the trip by January 15 so I can give Back Bay an estimate. The cost of the trip is \$250 per person made payable to Back Bay Mission when we arrive on March 26th. There are additional costs for food and travel to go to Biloxi, Mississippi.

Administration

Communication Updates

For the time being, we transitioned to a once-a-week e-newsletter that will contain a link to the Sunday bulletin and any other relevant information for upcoming events.

Congregational Life

*Embracing God,
welcoming others,
knowing ourselves*

2023 Spring Women's Retreat

Mark your calendar! We are excited to announce Julie Garber will again be our retreat leader at our **Spring Women's Retreat Friday, April 21, through Sunday, April 23, at Moon Beach!** Housing, rides, and the cost (\$170) will remain the same. More information and registration coming soon. In the meantime, contact Barb Uehling at 920-475-2212 or buehling@gmail.com.

Chrysalis Spiritual Formation Group

Chrysalis will discuss the second section, "Tending Sweetgrass," of the book *Braiding Sweetgrass* when we meet this Tuesday at 1:00 PM. This will be our second of five sessions, corresponding with the five divisions of the book. It is NOT too late to come join us!

First Congregational UCC Weekly Highlights

Monday, January 16

6:00 PM – 7:30 PM

6:30 PM – 8:30 PM

Mental Health Task Force – *Upper Lounge*

Fox Valley Flute Choir – *Sanctuary*

Tuesday, January 17

9:00 AM – 10:00 AM

1:00 PM – 2:30 PM

6:30 PM – 7:30 PM

7:45 PM – 8:45 PM

Strong Bodies – *Fellowship Hall*

Chrysalis – *Chapel*

Living Sober AA Group – *Common Grounds*

Fireside AA Group – *Common Grounds*

Wednesday, January 18

12:15 PM – 1:00 PM

5:45 PM – 6:25 PM

6:25 PM – 8:35 PM

6:30 PM – 7:30 PM

6:30 PM – 7:30 PM

7:00 PM – 8:30 PM

7:00 PM – 8:30 PM

Loving Acceptance Meditation Group – *Upper Lounge*

Youth Handbells – *Amistad Room*

Child Care – *Toddler Room*

Middle School Youth Group – *CYF*

Susan's Bible Study – *Chapel*

Sanctuary Choir – *Sanctuary/Choir Room*

High School Service Project – *Pillars*

Thursday, January 19

9:00 AM – 10:00 AM

11:00 AM – 12:30 PM

11:30 AM – 1:00 PM

6:00 PM – 6:30 PM

6:00 PM – 8:30 PM

6:00 PM – 8:30 PM

7:00 PM – 8:00 PM

Strong Bodies – *Fellowship Hall*

Finance Committee Meeting – *Upper Lounge*

AA – Search for Serenity Group – *Common Grounds*

Taize Worship: Soaking Up God's Word – *Chapel*

Family & Friends Mental Illness Support Group – *Lounge*

TNT-SOAR – *Community*

Fox Valley 94 AA – *Common Grounds*

Friday, January 20

10:00 AM – 11:00 AM

7:00 PM – 8:30 PM

Bulletin Assembly – *Upper Lounge*

AI-Anon – *Upper Lounge*

Saturday, January 21

7:00 PM – 8:00 PM

Fox Valley 94 AA – *Common Grounds*

The Ministry

Reverend Susan Cartmell, Interim Senior Pastor
Reverend Nicholas J. Hatch, Pastor for Youth and Family Ministries
Pastor Mary Jo Laabs, Associate Interim Minister for Congregational Life
Reverend John T. McFadden, Pastor Emeritus
John M. Albrecht, Director for Music Ministries
Dr. Nathan Birkholz, Organist
Sarah Wilterdink, Director for Children's & Middle School Ministries
Zaina Gonzales, Office Manager
Siri Witt, Bookkeeper
Matt Feuerhelm, AV Coordinator
Bart Forseth, Custodial Supervisor
Tom Ott, Custodial Assistant
Pat Metoxen, Custodial Assistant
Tim Krause, Weekend Custodial Assistant
Danielle Bruce, Childcare Provider
Kalyn Vander Grinten, Childcare Provider

First Congregational United Church of Christ
724 East South River Street
Appleton, Wisconsin 54915
Phone: (920) 733-7393
Website: www.firstcongoappleton.org